

## ABSTRACT

An operating mechanism for a movable closure element to  
releasably engage a strike assembly on a frame support and thereby releasably  
10 maintain the movable closure element in a predetermined position relative to  
the frame support. The operating mechanism has a base with an elongate  
portion with a first axis and a wall extending around the first axis and defining  
a passageway. A latch system on the base has (a) a latched state in which  
the latch system engages a strike element on the strike assembly so as to  
15 maintain a movable closure element on which the operating mechanism is  
mounted in the predetermined position and (b) a released state wherein the  
latch system can be disengaged from the strike element so as to allow a  
movable closure element on which the operating mechanism is mounted to be  
moved from the predetermined position. The operating mechanism further  
20 includes an actuating system on the base that is changeable from a first state  
into a second state to thereby change the latch system from the latched state  
into the released state. The actuating system has at least a first link which is  
movable axially within the passageway from a first position into a second

position to thereby change the latch system from the latched state into the released state. The actuating system further includes an actuating assembly that can be directed radially through the wall on the base into operative engagement with the base without requiring separate fasteners to maintain the operative engagement between the actuating assembly and the base.